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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/836,386	04/18/2001	Susumu Honma	109296	7176

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EXAMINER

EHICHIOYA, FRED I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 10/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/836,386

Applicant(s)

HONMA ET AL.

Examiner

Fred I. Ehichioya

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments filed on July 22, 2003 with respect to claims 1 – 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
2. Claims 1 – 12 are pending in this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 - 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,815,704 issued to Shigeyoshi Shimotsuji et al (hereafter "Shimotsuji") in view of U.S. Patent 5,438,682 issued to Ryohei Kumagai (hereinafter "Kumagai").

Regarding claim 1, Shimotsuji teaches a data input form retrieving system comprising:

character string extracting means for extracting a character string out of each of plural data input forms containing character strings ("character-line extraction means for extracting line data and character data from the input image data", see column 1, lines 55 – 57);

extracting conditions input means for inputting a condition of extracting a specific data input form out of the plural data input forms ("image input means for inputting image data of a new document; extraction means for extracting line data from the new document input image data", see column 2, line 15 - 17);

and data input form extracting means for extracting the specific data input form by retrieving the character string extracted by the character string extracting means in accordance with the extracting condition inputted by the extracting condition input means ("image input means for inputting image data of a new document; character-line extraction means for extracting line data and character data from the input image data" see column 2, lines 2 - 5).

Shimotsuji does not explicitly disclose extracting condition and inputting condition.

However, Kumagai discloses extracting condition and inputting condition ("extracting condition of input data such as on what kind of condition input data is to be extracted," for instance "on all the pixels." Characteristics variable settlement circuit 304

settles the condition of characteristics variable such as "what kind of data to be extracted," for instance "the number of pixels." see column 3, lines 33 – 39).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Kumagai with the teaching of Shimotsuji wherein extracting condition and inputting condition define the extracting condition of input data such as "on what kind of condition input data is to be extracted. The motivation is that these conditions retrieve the items of interest from the data base at high speed without the use of conventional index.

Regarding claims 2, 6 and 10, Shimotsuji teaches all the character strings contained in each of the plural data input forms are extracted ("Shimotsuji discloses "character strings" as "line data and character data", see column 1, lines 55 – 57).

Regarding claims 3, 7 and 11, Shimotsuji teaches a specific character string is selected out of the character strings contained in the plural data input forms (see column 6, lines 15 – 20).

Regarding claims 4, 8 and 12, Shimotsuji teaches a data input form retrieving system comprising:

keyword adding means for adding a keyword to each of plural data input forms ("keyword is inputted to retrieve data desired by a user", see column 1, lines 35 – 36);

extracting condition input means for inputting a condition of extracting a specific data input form out of the plural data input forms ("image input means for inputting image data of a new document; extraction means for extracting line data from the new document input image data", see column 2, lines 15 – 17); and

data input form extracting means for extracting the specific data input form by retrieving the keyword added by the keyword adding means in accordance with the extracting condition inputted by the extracting condition input means ("image input means for inputting image data of a new document; character-line extraction means for extracting line data and character data from the input image data" see column 2, lines 2 – 5).

Shimotsuji does not explicitly teach extracting condition inputted by the extracting condition.

However, Kumagai discloses extracting condition inputted by the extracting condition ("extracting condition of input data such as on what kind of condition input data is to be extracted," for instance "on all the pixels." Characteristics variable settlement circuit 304 settles the condition of characteristics variable such as "what kind of data to be extracted," for instance "the number of pixels." see column 3, lines 33 – 39).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Kumagai with the teaching of Shimotsuji wherein extracting condition and inputting condition define the extracting condition of input data such as "on what kind of condition input data is to be extracted. The motivation is that these conditions retrieve the items of interest from the database at high speed without the use of conventional index.

Regarding claims 5 and 9, Shimotsuji teaches a data input form retrieving method comprising:

extracting a character string out of each of plural data input forms containing character strings (see column 1, lines 55 – 57 and column 3, lines 46 – 47; "The character line extraction section 2 extracts line/character from the input image data");

extracting the specific data input form by retrieving the extracted character string in accordance with the inputted extracting condition (see column 8, lines 24 – 29);

Shimotsuji does not explicitly disclose inputting a condition of extracting a specific data input form out of the plural data input forms.

However, Kumagai discloses inputting a condition of extracting a specific data input form out of the plural data input forms ("extracting condition of input data such as on what kind of condition input data is to be extracted," for instance "on all the pixels." Characteristics variable settlement circuit 304 settles the condition of characteristics variable such as "what kind of data to be extracted," for instance "the number of pixels." see column 3, lines 33 – 39).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Kumagai with the teaching of Shimotsuji wherein extracting condition and inputting condition define the extracting condition of input data such as "on what kind of condition input data is to be extracted. The motivation is that these conditions retrieve the items of interest from the database at high speed without the use of conventional index.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred I. Ehichioya whose telephone number is 703-305-8039. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on 703-305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-303-3900.

Fred Ehichioya
October 6, 2003

Shahid Alam
**SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER**